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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Confronted with so simple a thing as a wart, for instance, the thinking man stands appalled at his own tremendous ignorance. What is it? A proliferation of tissue. True, perhaps, but why and how? The eternal question; why? Cancer, likewise, is merely constructive cellular activity gone wrong; but why? And in our puny ignorance, because of it and to conceal it, we have invented the application of many terms and names which, if interpreted, simply mean "I do not know." "Idiopathic" is a delightful word; almost as pleasant to the ear as "neurosis," and quite as meaningless. One should, therefore, have infinite charity for research and a very broad faith tempered only with sufficient scepticism to keep him from falling into too hasty belief. When, for example, the door is opened upon such vistas of speculation as have been presented by the work which will all be called to the mind's eye by the new word "opsonin," the thoughtful man is given much food for reflection. On the one hand he is in danger of falling into the abyss of too sanguine and enthusiastic acceptance of wonders to be soon accomplished; on the other he is in equal danger of stepping into the morass of utter denial and foolish scepticism. What will be the eventual value of the work of Wright and others developed from their "opsonic index," etc., no man can say. At present, however, the working out of the "index" is too trammelled with possible error to be regarded as in the slightest degree a scientific proceeding. But cer-

tain basic facts of greatest value are involved and they at once arrest attention. The living unit is fed by his blood stream, and fed and nourished either well or ill. Here is the starting point of Wright's work, and also the very recent work of Crile upon the cancer problem. Every portion of the individual being fed by his blood stream, necessarily such bacteria as are making him their habitat must also be so fed; and proliferative processes like cancer formation are likewise so nourished. Can the content of the blood or some of its remote and not understood characteristics be so modified as to desirably modify abnormal processes in the individual? That, to a certain extent this can be done, is well known and accepted fact. The question presents itself persistently, however: To what extent is it possible to carry this principle into practical and useful application in the treatment of disease? There was a time when all diseases were "blood diseases;" when "humors of the blood" were the cause of everything from blasted love to broken necks. There was later a time when to intimate that any affection might have its origin in the blood was to excite ridicule. But again the pendulum has swung and the blood is once more receiving the rapt attention of investigators, though as yet we may truthfully say that, relatively, we know nothing about it.

A committee of the A. M. A. has been appointed to collect, compile and compare the advertisements of physicians. In this state we wish to co-operate in the work, and to that end it is necessary that we receive the various publications throughout the state in which such advertisements appear. Will you, who read this note, give us your help by sending us the local papers of your community, marking the advertisements of physicians in order to facilitate the work? It is not much trouble to you and it will be of the greatest assistance to those having the work in charge. Please help.

Elsewhere we print a circular letter which went to all the members of the South Carolina Association, in their journal, and it is well worth your careful consideration. Do not the same conditions apply to your own JOURNAL? There is no earthly reason why reputable manufacturers whose products we use should not support your own JOURNAL if they do any advertising at all. And most of these manufacturers do advertise in the privately-owned journals of the various states. Why do they advertise in these journals and not in the state journals? Every state association journal has a larger bonafide circulation within its state than has any privately-owned journal. It can not therefore be the lack of circulation which influences the advertiser. What is it? Can it be that the manufacturers do not care to aid in making permanent the state journals? Can it be that they would

rather support the journals whose reading pages, as well as whose advertising pages, they can buy? Can it be that they have some hope that through lack of support the state journals will not live and the present movement for reform will stop? Why not reciprocity? If we support a manufacturing house, why not insist that that house support your JOURNAL? It places its advertisement in journals which are *fighting against* our campaign for honesty in *materia medica*; why not place it in your own JOURNAL which is fighting for honesty? Every honest manufacturer who is really dealing in good faith with the medical profession, and who advertises at all, should support the journals representing the profession by advertising in them; if he does not, but rather chooses to advertise in the published-for-profit medical (?) journals, what is the reason? There is something very peculiar about this; should we not try to find out what it is?

The New York Academy of Medicine announces that the Edward N. Gibbs Memorial Prize, of \$1,000 will be awarded on October 1st, 1909, to the author of the best essay on the subject of "The Etiology, Pathology and Treatment of the Diseases of the Kidney." All essays must be presented before the date given. New discovery or fruitful research will be considered the standard of merit, and each one of the three divisions of the subject may be treated at as much length as the author sees fit, but an essay, in order to obtain the prize, must show originality. If no essay of sufficient merit is received, the Academy reserves the right to make no award. Essays should be sent to the Committee of the New York Academy of Medicine on The Edward N. Gibbs Memorial Prize, from which committee full details may be had upon request.

It is a great thing, from the business man's standpoint, to have conventions meet in his city; it is entirely immaterial what sort of folk convent so long as they *do* convent. The stranger within the gates must live and therefore he must spend money. *Q. E. D.* It is a matter of course that the commercial bodies and city officials of a convention city make every effort to secure all the conventions they possibly can and to issue invitations galore and write letters full of guff and soft soap. But that is no reason why the mayor of such a city should at one and the same time write himself an ass and extend a gratuitous insult to the educated and thinking people of his community. Los Angeles is trying to get the National osteopathic organization to meet there in 1909, and of course the usual number of invitations have been issued. One of these comes from Mr. A. C. Harper, mayor, and an extract from it, as it appears in the *Cosmopolitan Osteopath* for May-June, is as follows:

"We offer you the friendly environment, not only of the state having the largest number of

osteopathic physicians in the world, but we offer you the city having the largest number of osteopathic physicians of any city in the world; which means that population which gives the largest recognition to and patronage of osteopathy.

"To carry the thought further, it means a city of 300,000 population, all of whose eight daily newspapers give friendly and sympathetic news service of osteopathic procedure. Indeed, no newspaper in America has made that systematic and long continued and exhaustive campaign for the advancement of rational therapeutics that has been made by Dr. Harry Brooke, editor of the 'Care of the Body Department' of the *Sunday Times Magazine*."

The Los Angeles *Times* stands now, and has stood for many years, opposed to everything scientific, everything pertaining to rational medicine and medical science. Harry Brooke is not a "Dr." and never was. He is of the long-haired "Otis, Mex." variety of freak and weekly fills sundry columns of the *Times* with the most awful slush and drivel, relic of the superstition and the ignorance of the middle ages, samples of a cerebration which any alienist would find little difficulty in classifying. And of this sort of thing is the mayor of Los Angeles proud! Truly, it was not without reason that Los Angeles became known, some years ago, as the "Mecca of the quack."

Many and various, and coming down from the ages are the maxims, proverbs, sayings, what you will, that attempt to put into a few words what is an inexorable law of nature in the sifting process of retributive justice.

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding fine;" "honesty is the best policy;" "truth, crushed to earth, will rise again," etc., etc., *ad nauseam*. Yet the fact is so seldom appreciated. Whatsoever a man may do, if he is honest with himself first, last and all the time, and if he goes through the world doing that thing which he knows is the right thing for him to do; playing the game honestly according to the rules; giving every man a square deal and not lifting his hand to injure another, just so surely, and no matter what others may say or do nor how much criticism or calumny may be his portion, just so surely will he eventually come into his own and receive that reward which no money can buy. It may not come to him in the shape of riches or place or fame; when the last word is said and forgotten, these are but trifling piffle. It may not even be recognition during his lifetime; but it will surely be that inward satisfaction of having done the right thing, of having fought the good fight, of having played the square, clean game, of having lived to some purpose, which brings lasting contentment and "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." The other fellow may cheat, or be crooked or do those things "which no gentleman will do" and gain riches or temporary place. It